

HISTORY OF THE FIRMS USING PERFINS

In the distant past this was a regular feature of the Bulletin, quite a number of members have remarked that it was useful when displaying a firms' perfins or a cover from a user, to be able to write something about the user. I am sure that many members have local knowledge of the firms in their neck of the woods who used perfins. I would be delighted to publish any notes sent in about these businesses. Just a few lines could be helpful. The following from DAVE HILL may set the ball rolling.

F.BRABY & CO.LTD.

(F0280.02; 0300.01; 0310.03; 0320.01; 0350.01; 0350.02; 0350.03)
Started as Charles Jack, zinc manufacturers in 1839 in Euston Rd. registered as a limited company on 24th Oct.1865 (Frederick Braby and Company Limited). Formed to acquire business of Frederick Braby & Co. (est.1839). Made perforated sheet, wire netting, galvanised sheet metal, tanks, drums and windows. Also structural engineers. Works at Deptford 1866, Liverpool 1871, Glasgow 1875, Bristol 1896, Falkirk 1899. After W.W.I closed Glasgow, moved to Crayford, then Uxbridge, in 1960's to Auto Diesels (manufacturers of generating sets est. 1936) who they had acquired in 1959. Became Braby Auto Diesels which was itself acquired by the Economic Group in 1970 (est.1922 makers of gas appliances). In the recent property boom the buildings were demolished (the company records were kept here) and the site is now a business park.

LAMPART & HOLT LINE (L2910.01; 2910.02; 2910.03)

Founded in 1845 in Liverpool, registered in 1865 as The Liverpool Brazil & River Plate Steam Navigation Co. In 1911 Lampart & Holt became a public company and was taken over by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ltd. This collapsed in 1929. In 1934 the assets were acquired by part of the Vestry Group and after the war it was bought by Fred Leyland & Co. and is operated by the Blue Star Line.

JOHN BARRAN & SONS, LEEDS (J1000.01)

John Barran came to Leeds from Surrey in 1842. Wholesale clothing manufacturer, early user of sewing machine driven by steam

Invented hand knife in 1858 which cut many thicknesses of cloth at once. He had no real experience of tailoring, was self taught and was not afraid to try new ways of doing things. Specialised in ready made trade especially boys clothing. Employed Jewish labour often straight from the boat. 1st reg. in 1903 with warehouse and showrooms in Leeds, factories in Leeds, Gateshead, Morpeth, Seaham Harbour and Normanton, and showrooms in London, Birmingham and Gateshead.

* * *

Details of Braby & Lamport/Holt came from 'Company Archives' a survey of the first 1000 companies regd. in 1885. Pub.1985 by Business Archives Council.

Details of Barran from 'Victorians Unbuttoned' by Sarah Levy and pub. by ALLENN & UNWIN.

* * * * *